GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5547
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
MANDATORY ROLES
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the mandated role of the Planning Commission, North Eastern Council (NEC) and Ministry of DONER in the matter of planning and execution of projects and schemes in the North Eastern Region (NER);

(b) whether a proposal for creation of an infrastructure development agency under the umbrella of Planning Commission is under examination to facilitate execution of various infrastructure development projects in the NER ;

(c) if so, the details of the objectives and present status of the proposal;

(d) the future role of DONER and NEC in the event of creation of such body; and

(e) the list of NEC projects which took more than two years in obtaining `In-principle` approval from the Planning Commission during the Tenth Plan Period and the reason for such inordinate delay, project-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a): The Planning Commission, set up by a Resolution of the Government of India in March 1950, is charged with the responsibility of making assessment of all resources of the country, augmenting deficient resources, formulating plans for the most effective and balanced utilisation of resources and determining priorities. The ultimate objective is to promote standard of living of the people by efficient exploitation of the resources of the country, increasing production and offering opportunities to all for employment in the service of the community.

North-Eastern Council (NEC), set up under the NEC Act, 1971, is for securing balanced and coordinated development of the North-Eastern areas and to advise the Central Government on the matters of common interest in the field of economic and social planning. NEC was made a Regional Planning Body by an amendment in the Act in 2002.

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/o DoNER), created in 2001, is to act as a nodal Ministry for North East and to deal with matters relating to(i) planning, execution and monitoring of developmental schemes and projects of North Eastern Region, (ii) Non-lapsable Fund for the North Eastern Region,(iii) North Eastern Council, (iv) North Eastern Development Finance Institution (NEDFi),(v) North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC), (vi) Sikkim Mining Corporation Limited (SMC), (vii) North Eastern Handlooms and Handicrafts Development Corporation (NEHHDC). While M/o DoNER is to coordinate with other Ministries primarily for their development and welfare activities in NER, overall responsibility of the sectors rest with respective Ministries.

(b): Creation of Infrastructure Development Agency is not under active consideration.

(c) & (d): Does not arise.

(e) : Detailed examination is necessary for ensuring desirability, technical feasibility, competence of implementing authority, appropriate fund flow etc. before according `in principle` approval to a project proposal. Process can be completed only when all relevant clarifications are made available. Planning Commission did not take more than two years in according `in principle` approval of NEC project proposals once relevant information are made available.